(b) whether Government's attention has also been drawn to the reported comments in the H.T. dated 17th July,1993—"T.V. slot sale I and II—Tale of blurred vision, schemes" also dated 18th July, 1993 of H.T. saying—"A mandarin--made disaster" on the proposed recommendations of ATCI; and

(c) whether Government propose to set up any Expert ommittee comprising of professionals to scrutinise applications for time allotment on the Metro and satellite channles by eliminating) "favourits" producers, if so, by when and if not, reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b): The scheme of allotment of time slots on the Metro Channels of Doordarshan and FM channels of All India Radio in Delhi, Bombay, Madras and Calcutta of September, 1992 under which the air time committee of India was constituted, has since been rescinded.

(c) There is no such proposal at present.

Hading over management of Express Group

2680. SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:
SHRI G. G. SWELL:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Express Group Employees Union has requested Prime Minister through a letter to hand over the management of Express Group papers to the union, if so, what is the context of the letter;

(b) whether it is a fact that one partner of Express Group got a loan of 4,182,287 dollars (approximately Rs. 10 crores) to buy a Harris Heat Jet Press, brand name and purchaesd a second hand press at the cost around Rs. 3.5 crores; if so, have they violated FERA regulation and loan agreement for dollar;

(c) whether total outstanding debt of Express Group by various FIs come to Rs. 118 crores;

(d) whether it is a fact that Emplyoees Union has asked for CBI inquiry into the shady deals;

(e) whether it is a fact partners of Express Group are shiphoning off money and resources of the Express group in their coffers;

(f) whether Express Group is facing liquidation and gratuity and other benefits of the employees are in danger; and

(g) what is the response of the Government about the demands of employees union?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (g) Does not arise.

Press Information Bureau Office at Tirupati

2681. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a Branch office of Press Information Bureau at Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c) At present, there is no proposal to set up